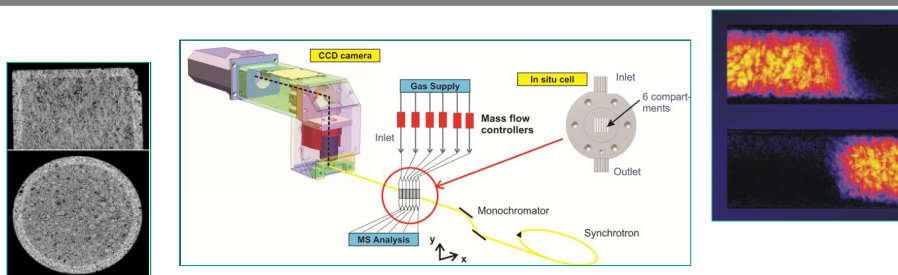


# Shining X-rays on Catalytic Reactors: Importance of Time and Spatially Resolved Studies

Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt

Institute for Chemical Technology and Polymer Chemistry, Campus South



KIT – University of the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg and  
National Research Center of the Helmholtz Association

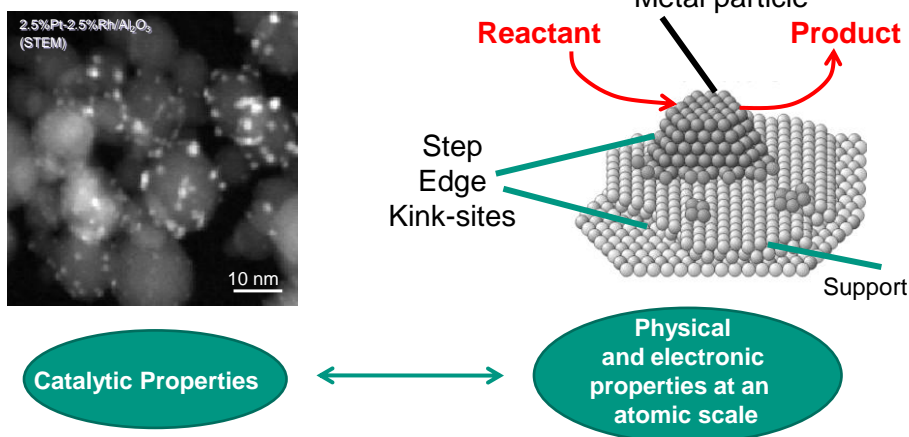
[www.kit.edu](http://www.kit.edu)

## Overview

- Introduction: Setting the scene
- Time resolved studies
- Scanning and full-field X-ray microscopy in the  $\mu\text{m}$  and  $\text{mm}$  regime
- Spatiotemporal studies
- Summary and outlook

## Imaging a working catalyst – our view

- Improvement of catalysts triggered by the microscale



Picture adapted from: J. Libuda, H.-J. Freund

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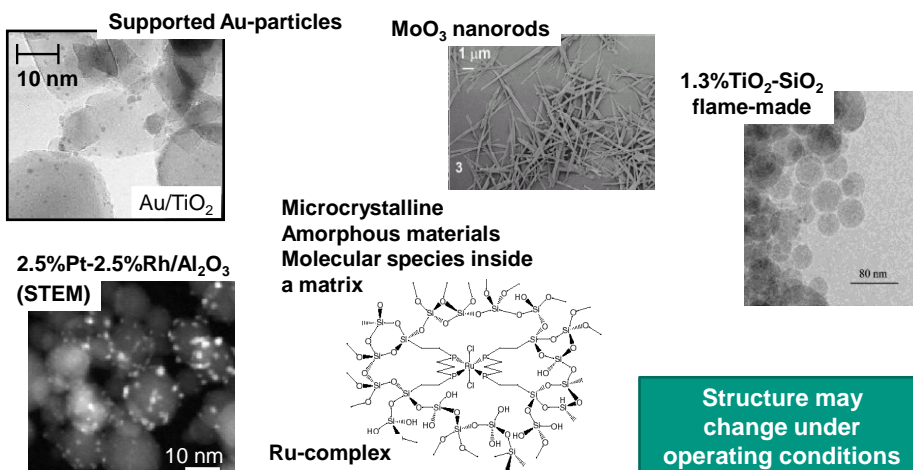
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## Imaging working catalysts

- Improvement of catalysts triggered by the microscale



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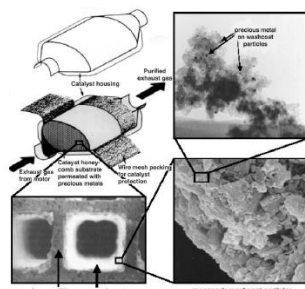
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## Imaging working catalysts

- Improvement of catalysts triggered by the microscale
- Equally important is the „macroscale“
  - Real catalysts are in large scale fixed bed reactors
    - Pressure drop needs to be minimized
    - Strength of catalyst pellets
    - Optimized diffusion parameters



A.T. Bell, Science 299, 1688 (2003)



(Haldor Topsøe)

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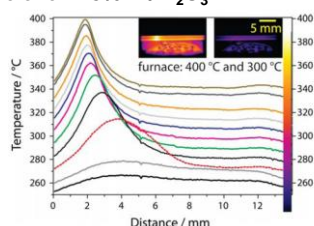
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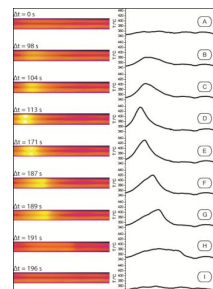
## Imaging working catalysts

- Improvement of catalysts triggered by the microscale
- Equally important is the „macroscale“
  - Real catalysts are in large scale fixed bed reactors
    - Pressure drop needs to be minimized
    - Strength of catalyst pellets
    - Optimized diffusion parameters
  - Temperature and concentration gradients in catalytic reactors

### Partial oxidation of methane over 2.5%Rh/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>



### Partial oxidation of methane over Pd



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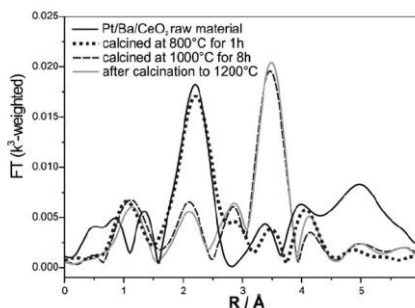
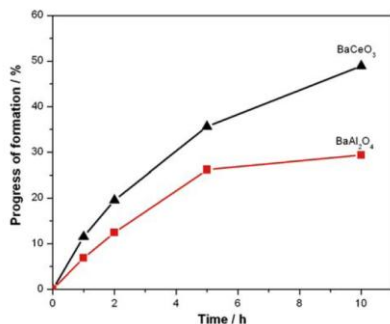
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## Imaging working catalysts – time resolution

### Long-term dynamic effects

- Sintering and ageing
- Restructuring

### Formation of $\text{BaCeO}_3$ , $\text{Pt}_x\text{Ba}_{1-x}\text{CeO}_3$ in NSR-catalysts



M. Casapu, J.-D. Grunwaldt, et al., Top. Catal. 42, 3 (2007), J. Catal. 251, 48 (2007)

7

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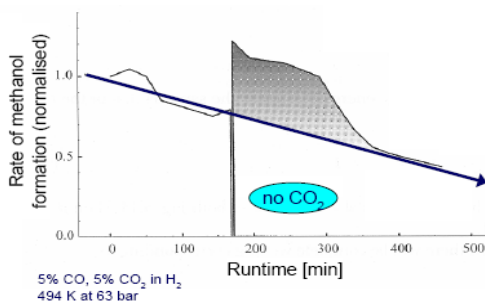
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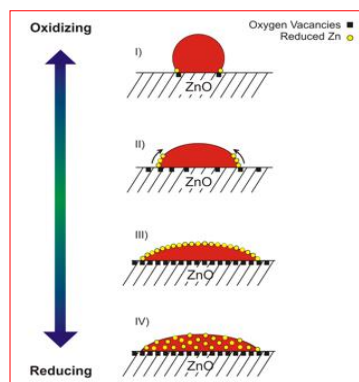
## Imaging working catalysts – time resolution

### Long-term dynamic effects

- Sintering and ageing
- Restructuring



H. Topsøe et al., in Dynamics of Surfaces and Reaction in Heterogeneous Catalysis (1997)



Grunwaldt, Clausen et al., J. Catal. 194, 452 (2000)  
Grunwaldt and Clausen, Topics Catal. 18, 37 (2002)  
Hansen et al., Science 295, 2053 (2002)

8

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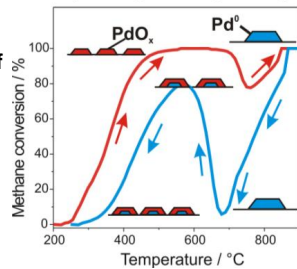
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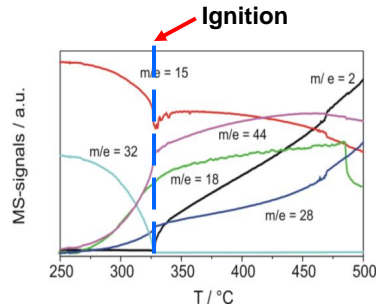
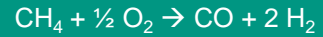
## Imaging working catalysts – time resolution

- Long-term dynamic effects
  - Sintering and ageing, restructuring
- Rapid structural changes
  - Temperature programmed reaction
  - Ignition, extinction
  - Oscillating reactions
  - Activation of catalysts (e.g. reduction)

Total oxidation of methane over 10%Pd/ZrO<sub>2</sub>



Grunwaldt, et al. Chem. Commun., 4635 (2007).



Grunwaldt and Baiker, Catal. Lett. 99, 5 (2005).

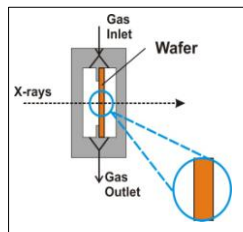
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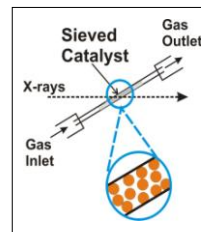
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## Shining X-rays on catalysts – best compromise?



$$\tau_{\text{film}} \cong \frac{\rho_{\text{CuO}} \cdot \frac{d}{2}}{k_m \cdot c_{\text{H}_2}} \longrightarrow 6.5 \text{ s}$$



$$\tau_{\text{film}} \cong \frac{\rho_{\text{CuO}} \cdot R_p}{3k_m \cdot c_{\text{H}_2}} \longrightarrow 1.7 \text{ ms}$$

$$\tau_{\text{pore}} \cong \frac{\rho_{\text{CuO}} \cdot \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2}{2D_e \cdot c_{\text{H}_2}} \longrightarrow 0.5 \text{ to } 60 \text{ min}$$

$$D_e = 10^{-6} \text{ to } 10^{-8} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$$

$$\tau_{\text{pore}} \cong \frac{\rho_{\text{CuO}} \cdot R_p^2}{6D_e \cdot c_{\text{H}_2}} \longrightarrow 0.02 \text{ to } 2 \text{ s}$$

Grunwaldt et al., PCCP 6, 3037 (2004).

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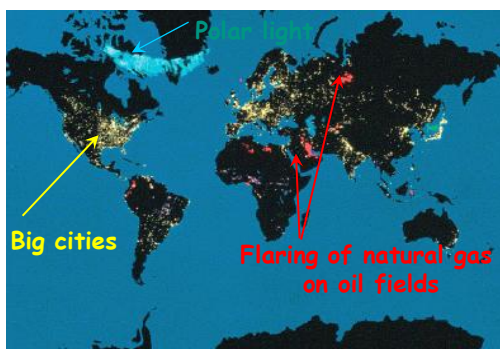
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## Catalytic partial oxidation of methane



- **Active Catalysts:**  
Supported noble metals,  
Ni-catalysts [1]
- **Alternative route to  
steam/ autothermal  
reforming [2]**
- **Synthesis gas for  
production of liquid fuels**
- **Useful in stationary  
SOFCs**

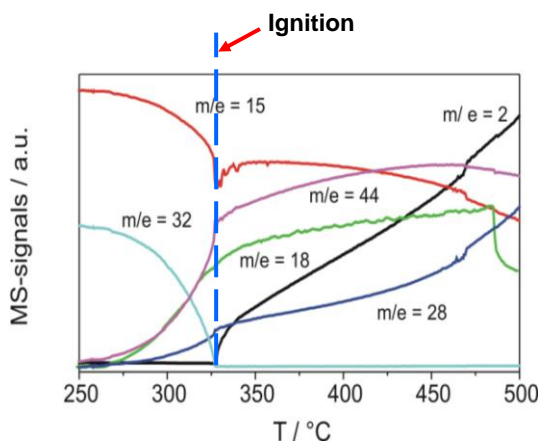


Flaring of natural gas

[1] A.P.E. York et al., Topics Catal. 22, 345 (2003)  
Hickmann and Schmidt, Science 259, 343 (1993)  
[2] J.R. Rostrup-Nielsen, J. Sehested, J.K. Nørskov, Adv.  
Catal. 47, 65 (2002)

From: L. Plass, S. Reimelt, CIT 79, p. 561 (2007)

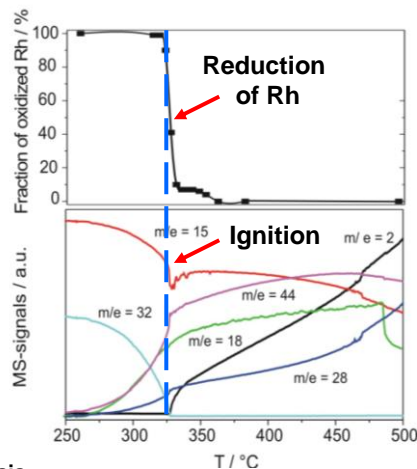
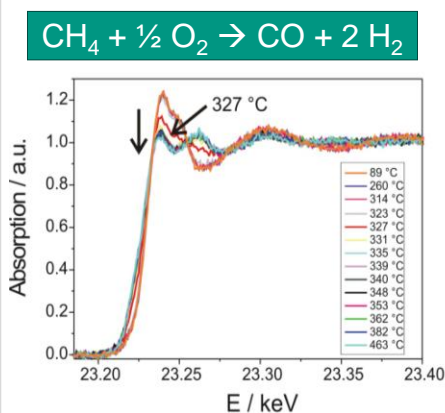
## Catalytic partial oxidation of methane: Ignition of the reaction



2.5%Rh-2.5%Pt/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, prepared  
by flame synthesis  
6% CH<sub>4</sub>, 3% O<sub>2</sub> in He, ramp rate:  
5 K/min

Grunwaldt and Baiker, Catal. Lett. 99, 5 (2005).

## Catalytic partial oxidation of methane: Ignition of the reaction



2.5%Rh-2.5%Pt/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, prepared by flame synthesis

6% CH<sub>4</sub>, 3% O<sub>2</sub> in He, ramp rate: 5 K/min; linear combination of spectra from starting and end spectrum

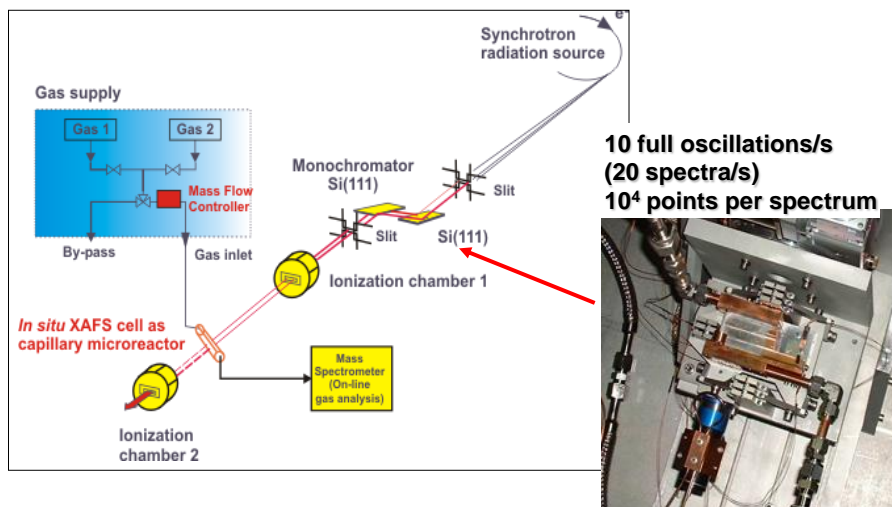
Grunwaldt and Baiker, Catal. Lett. 99, 5 (2005).

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## Improved time-resolution



Lützenkirchen-Hecht, Grunwaldt, Frahm et al., Physica Scripta T115, 831 (2005).

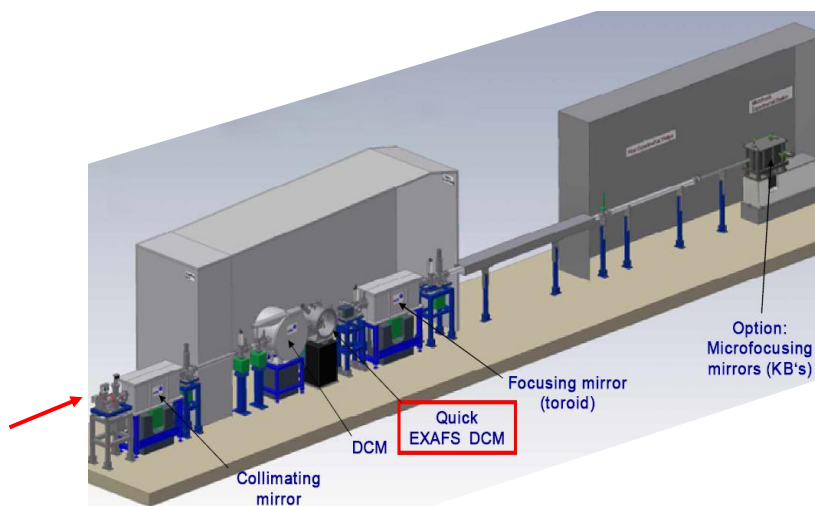
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## Improved time-resolution: Setup at SLS



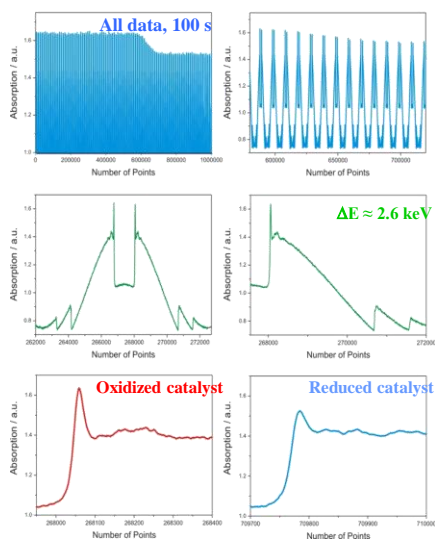
(Entire beamline delivered and installed by ACCEL)

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## QEXAFS during the catalytic partial oxidation of methane



**Pt L-edges**  
1 Hz oscillation frequency  
⇒ 2 spectra/s

5% Pt -5% Rh / Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst  
in 6% CH<sub>4</sub> / 3% O<sub>2</sub> / He  
atmosphere between 321 and  
331° C sample temperature.

Data collected at the SLS.

Grunwaldt, Stötzl, Frahm et al., PCCP 11, 8799 (2009).

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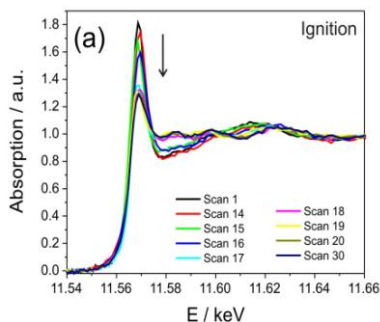
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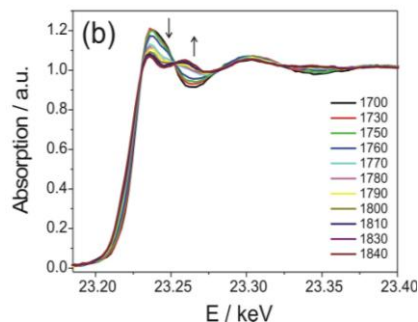


## Ignition of the catalytic partial oxidation of methane

### Pt L<sub>3</sub>-edge



### Rh K-edge



#### Sample:

2.5%Pt-2.5%Rh/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in 6%CH<sub>4</sub>/3%O<sub>2</sub>/He

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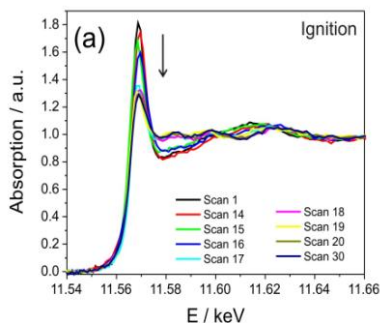
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## Ignition of the catalytic partial oxidation of methane

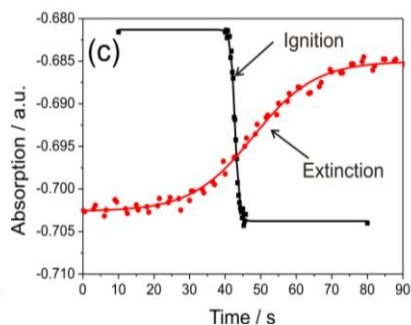
### Pt L<sub>3</sub>-edge



#### Sample:

2.5%Pt-2.5%Rh/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in 6%CH<sub>4</sub>/3%O<sub>2</sub>/He

### Results from LCA analysis



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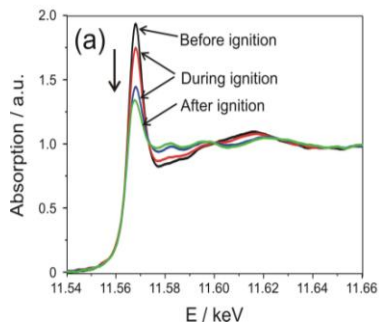
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## Improved time-resolution by QEXAFS

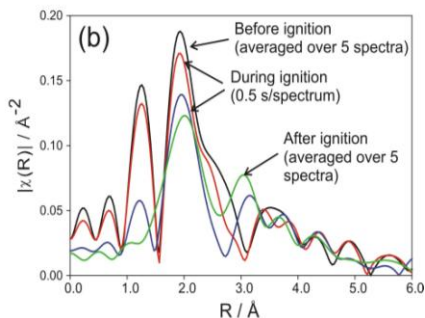
### XANES at Pt L<sub>3</sub>-edge



#### Sample:

2.5%Pt-2.5%Rh/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in 6%CH<sub>4</sub>/3%O<sub>2</sub>/He

### EXAFS at Pt L<sub>3</sub>-edge



Recently extended to liquid phase  
(hydrothermal synthesis), improvement of  
statistics by modulation excitation  
spectroscopy, etc.

Stötzl, Grunwaldt, Frahm et al., J. Phys. Conf. Ser. 190,  
012153 and 012162 (2009)

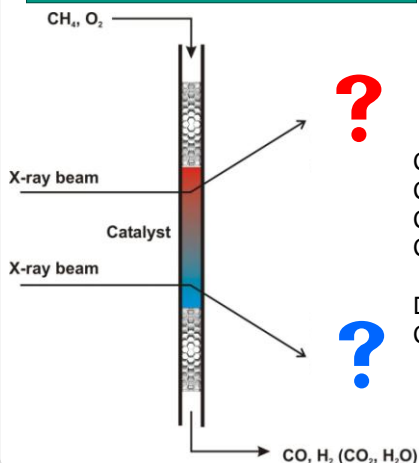
Zhou, Patzke, Grunwaldt, Frahm, Small, in press.

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## Monitoring over the catalyst bed during CPO

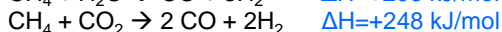
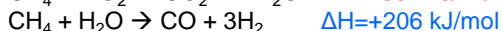
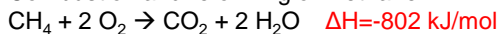


#### Sample:

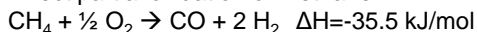
2.5%Pt-2.5%Rh/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in  
6%CH<sub>4</sub>/3%O<sub>2</sub>/He, ca. 320 °C

Two mechanisms of partial  
methane oxidation

Combustion and reforming of methane



Direct partial oxidation of methane

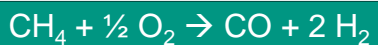


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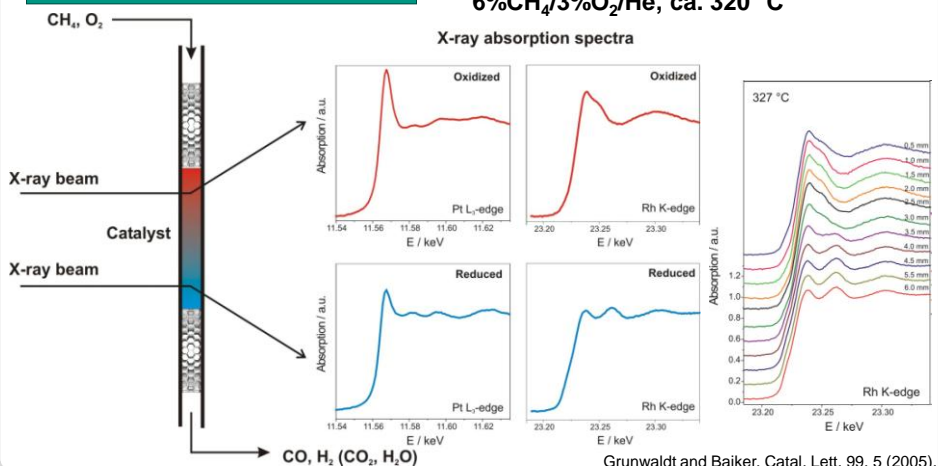
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## Monitoring over the catalyst bed during CPO



Sample:  
2.5%Pt-2.5%Rh/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in  
6%CH<sub>4</sub>/3%O<sub>2</sub>/He, ca. 320 °C



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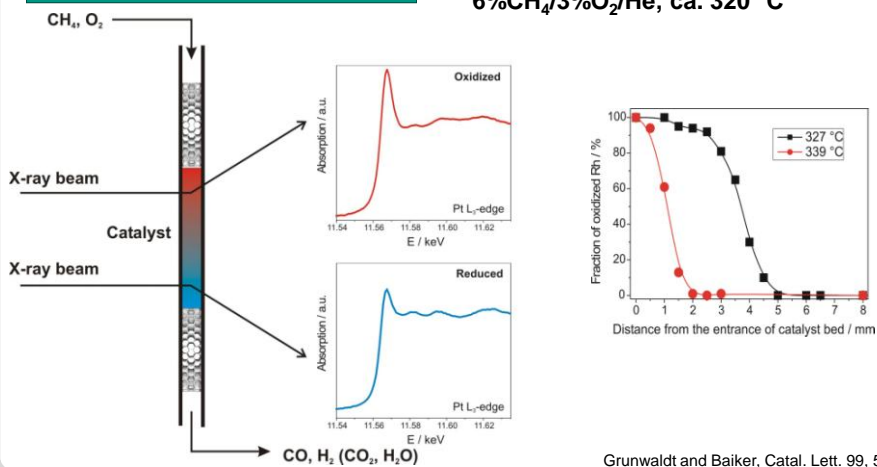
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## Monitoring over the catalyst bed during CPO



Sample:  
2.5%Pt-2.5%Rh/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in  
6%CH<sub>4</sub>/3%O<sub>2</sub>/He, ca. 320 °C

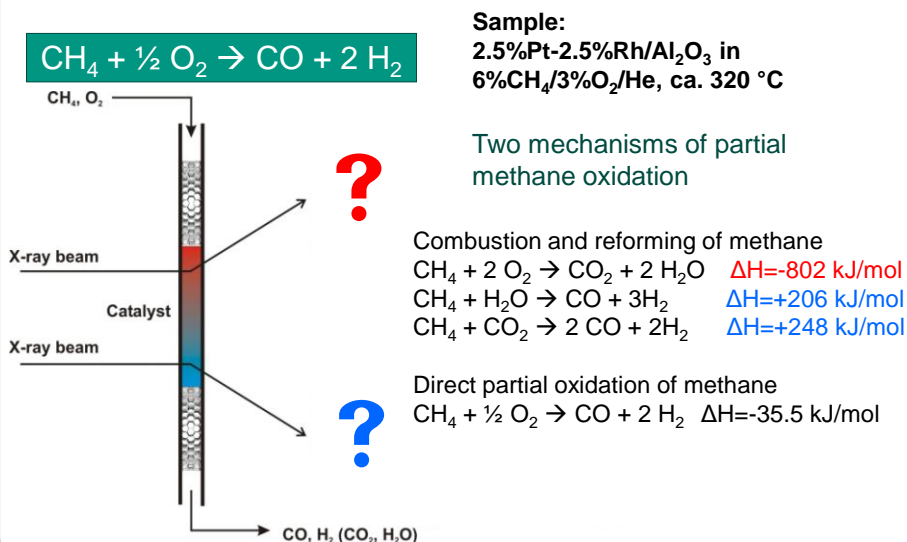


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## Monitoring over the catalyst bed during CPO

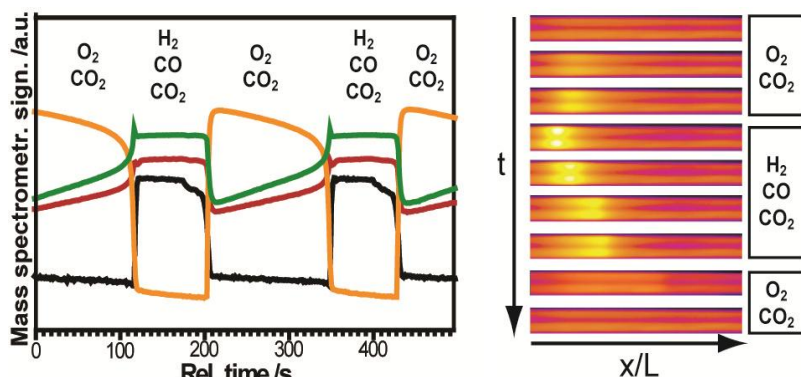
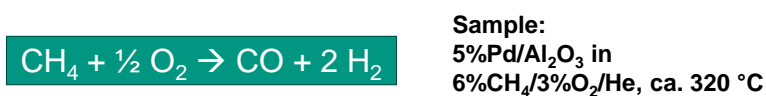


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## Partial oxidation of methane over Pd/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>



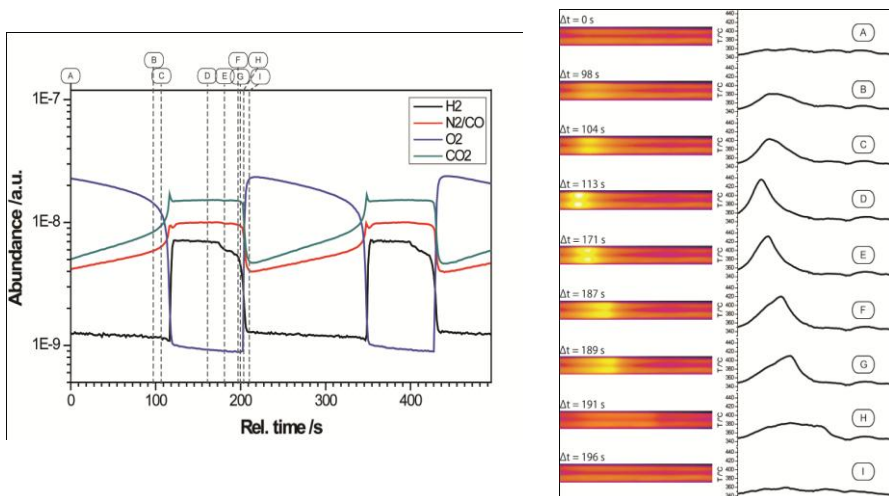
Kimmerle, Baiker, Grunwaldt, PCCP 12, 2288 (2010).

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## Oscillations during CPO over Pd/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

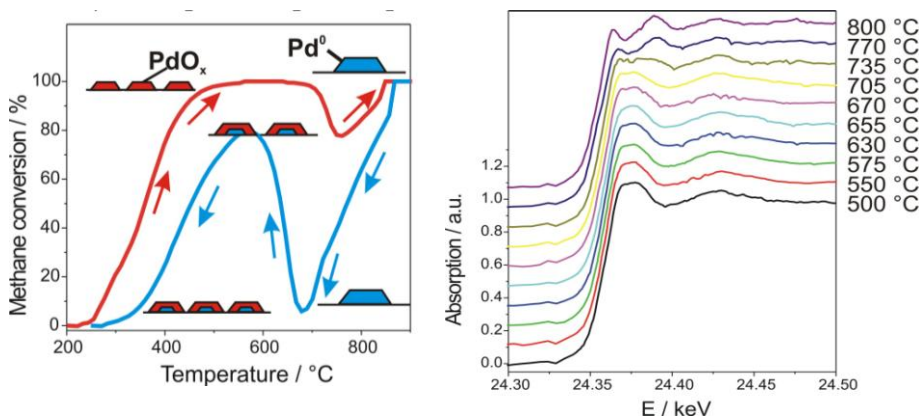


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## A look on the total oxidation of methane



10%Pd/ZrO<sub>2</sub>, prepared by flame-synthesis

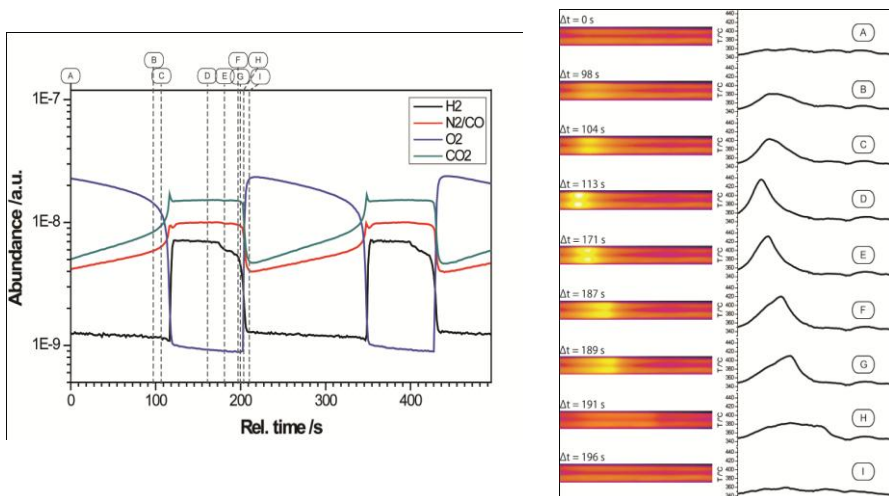
Grunwaldt, et al. Chem. Commun., 4635 (2007).

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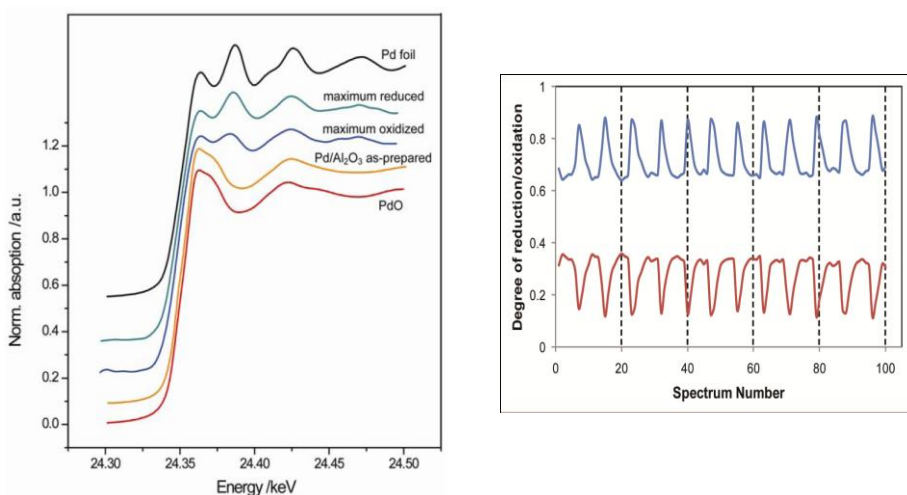
## Oscillations during CPO over Pd/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>



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## LCA analysis during CPO over Pd/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

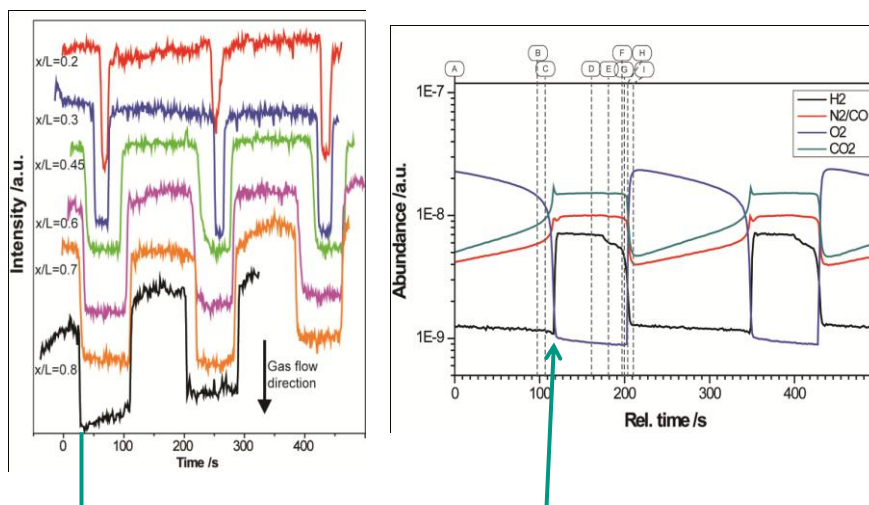


Kimmerle, Baiker, Grunwaldt, PCCP 12, 2288 (2010).

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## LCA analysis during CPO over Pd/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

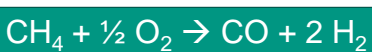


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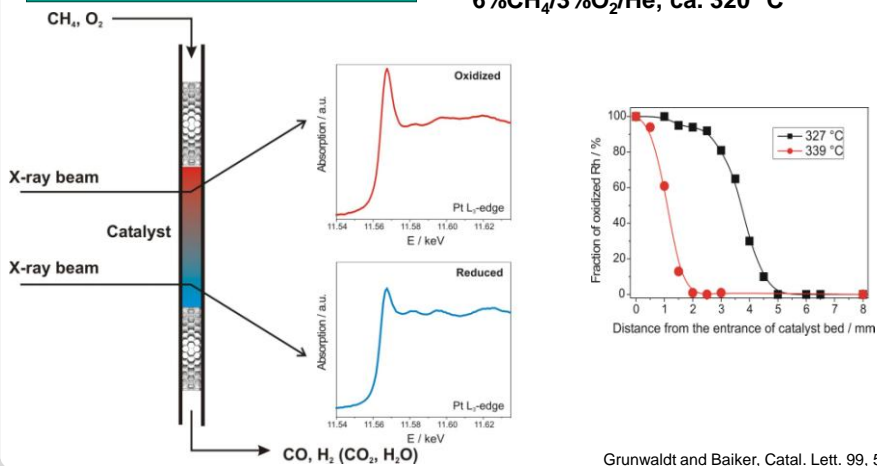
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## Monitoring over the catalyst bed during CPO



Sample:  
2.5%Pt-2.5%Rh/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in  
6%CH<sub>4</sub>/3%O<sub>2</sub>/He, ca. 320 °C



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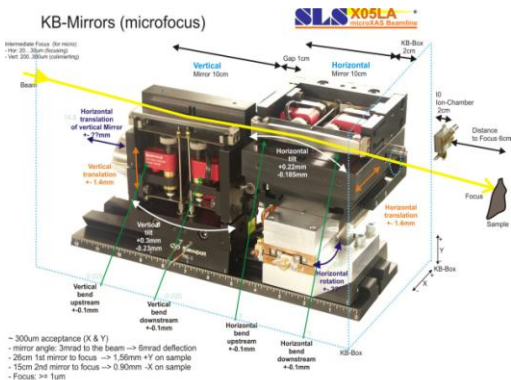
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Grunwaldt and Baiker, Catal. Lett. 99, 5 (2005).

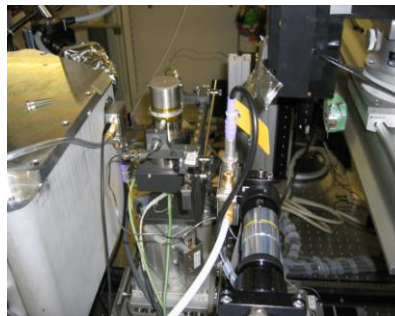
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## Scanning X-ray microscopy with microfocussed beam



**KB-Mirrors at SLS**  
**Focus down to**  
**1 µm x 1 µm**



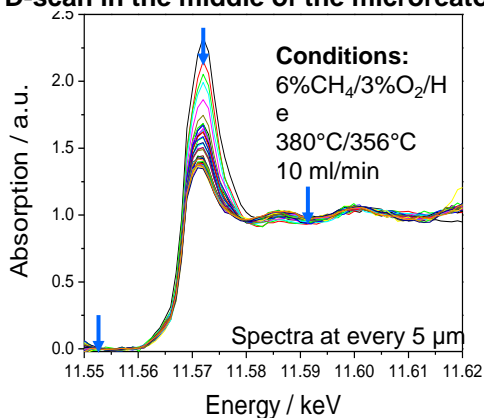
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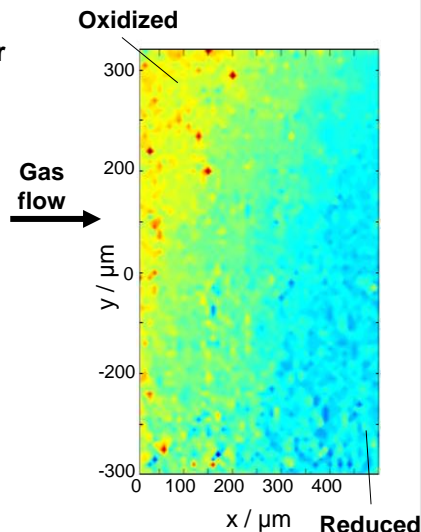
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## Microfocussed beam: KB-mirrors at SLS

**1D-scan in the middle of the microreactor**



Maps at: 11.555 keV, 11.572 keV, 11.590 keV



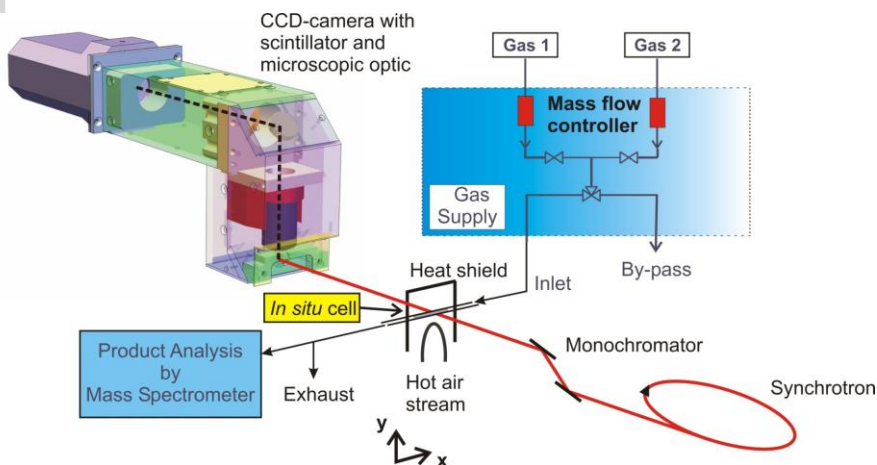
J.-D. Grunwaldt, et al., Catal. Today 145, 267 (2009).

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## Full field X-ray microscopy: Recording X-ray absorption spectra with an X-ray camera



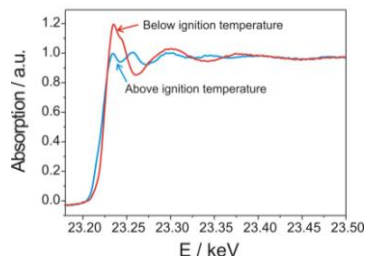
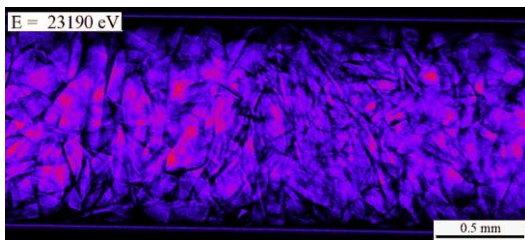
Grunwaldt, Hannemann, Schroer, Baiker,  
J. Phys. Chem. B 110, 8674 (2006).

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## X-ray absorption as function of X-ray energy



**Sample:**  
2.5%Rh/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in 6%CH<sub>4</sub>/3%O<sub>2</sub>/He  
ca. 400 °C

Grunwaldt, Hannemann, Schroer, Baiker,  
J. Phys. Chem. B 110, 8674 (2006).

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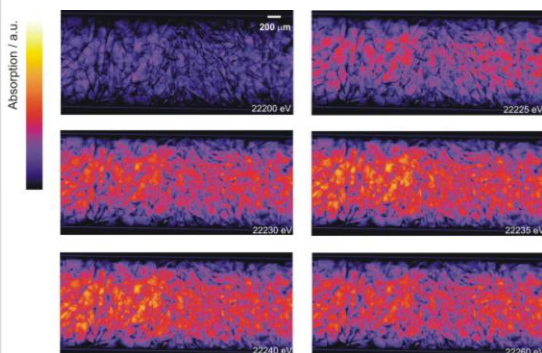
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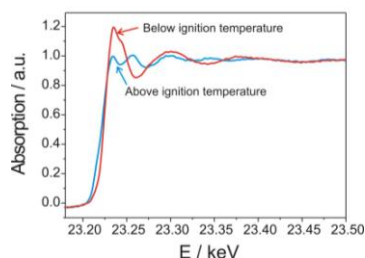
## X-ray absorption as function of X-ray energy



Sample:  
2.5%Rh/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in 6%CH<sub>4</sub>/3%O<sub>2</sub>/He



Absorption of X-rays behind capillary reactor at selected energies



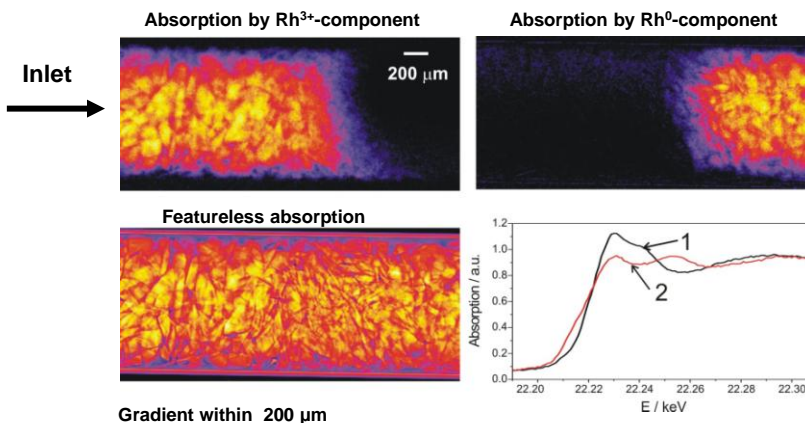
Grunwaldt, Hannemann, Schroer, Baiker,  
J. Phys. Chem. B 110, 8674 (2006).

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## Result of full-field X-ray microscopy



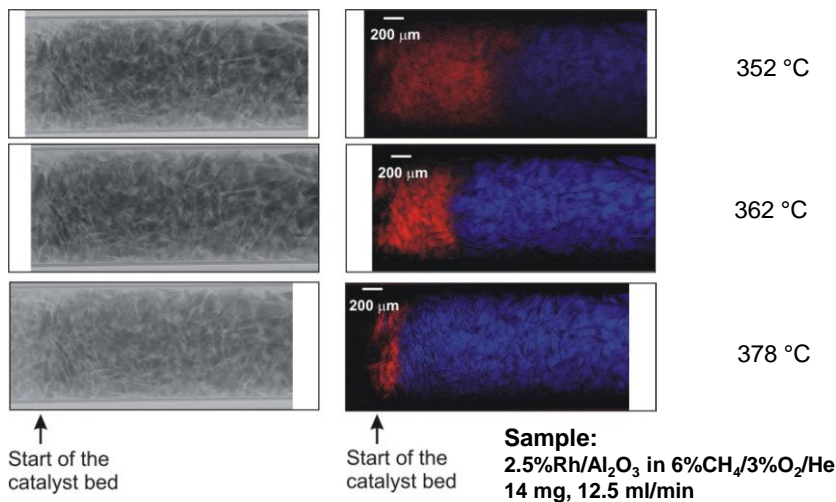
Grunwaldt, Hannemann, Schroer, Baiker,  
J. Phys. Chem. B 110, 8674 (2006).

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## Gradient as function of temperature (Rh K-edge)

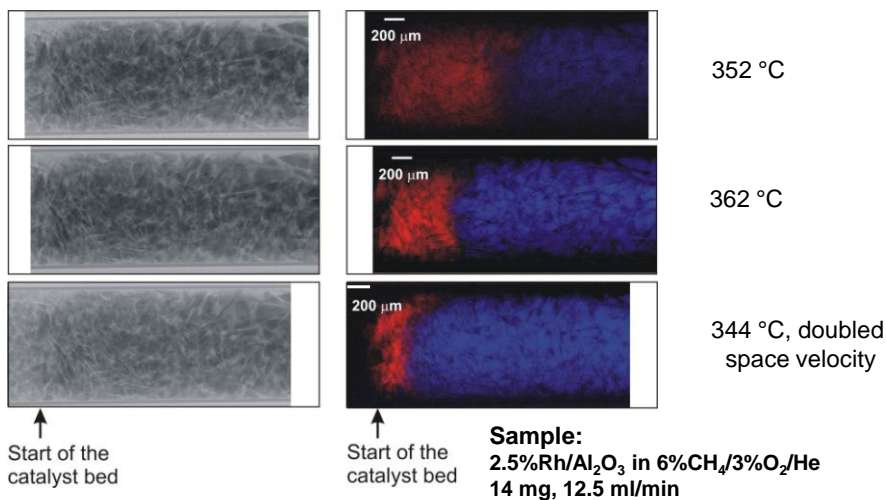


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## Gradient as function of space velocity (Rh K-edge)

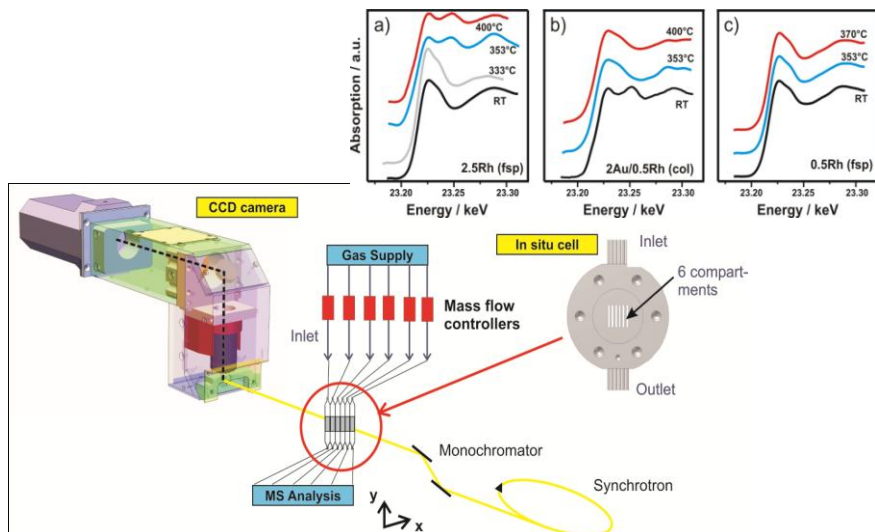


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## Catalysis and structure in parallel



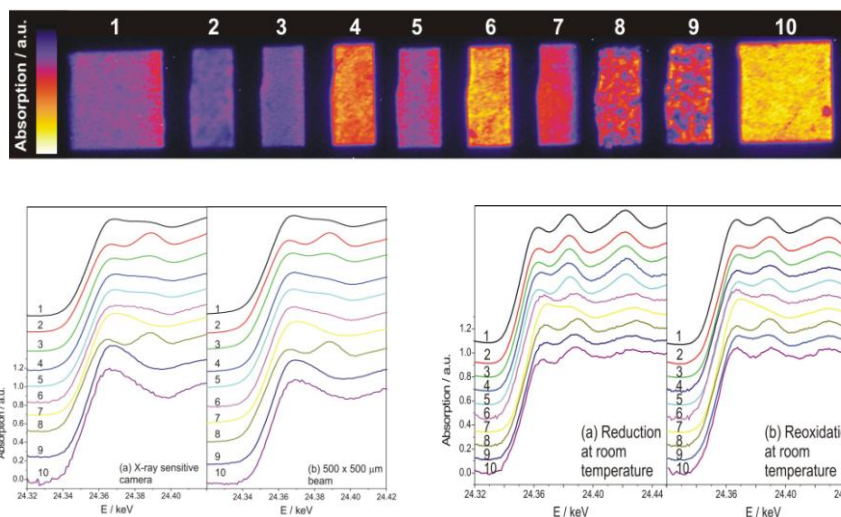
Kimmerle, Grunwaldt, et al., Appl. Catal. A 353, 36 (2010).

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## Perspectives: Parallel screening of Pd-based catalysts



J.-D. Grunwaldt, B. Kimmerle, et al., J. Mater. Chem. 17, 2603-2606 (2007).

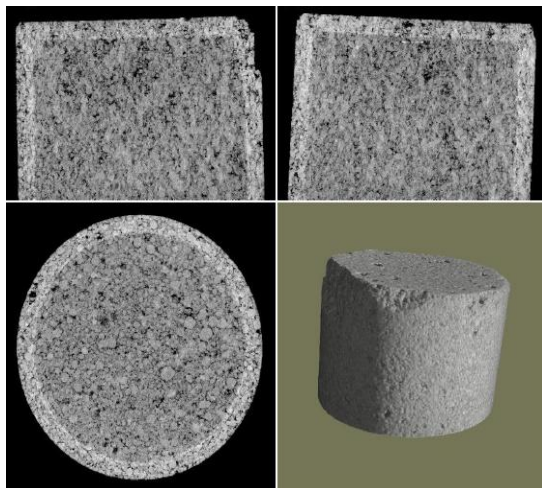
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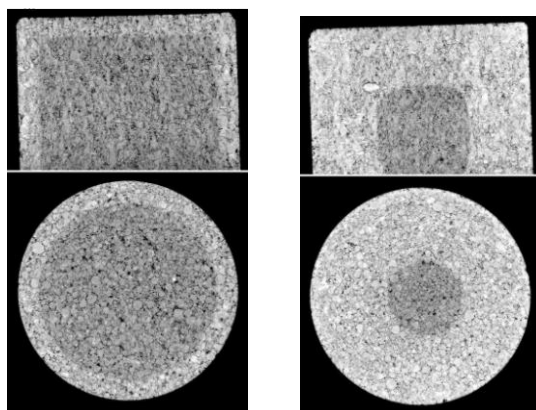


## Going to the third dimension: X-ray tomography on shaped catalysts



3D-reconstruction of 0.5%Pd/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, shell-impregnated catalyst pellet of cylindrical shape; sample was stuck from one side on the sample holder, field of view: 3.54 mm x 2.36 mm; total reconstructed volume of 3.54 x 3.54 x 2.36 mm<sup>3</sup>.

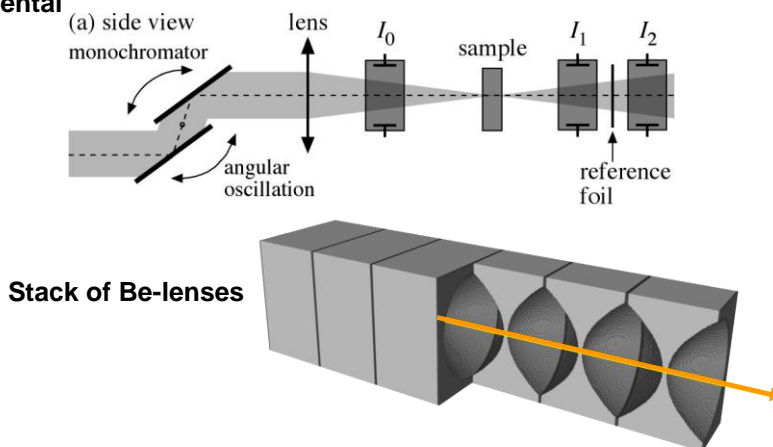
## Going to the third dimension: X-ray tomography on shaped catalysts



3D-reconstruction of Cu/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, (a) 1 min and (b) 10 min with CuCl<sub>2</sub>-solution impregnated catalyst pellet; field of view: 3.54 mm x 2.36 mm.

## Scanning X-ray absorption tomography

### Experimental Setup



C. Schroer, B. Lengler, et al., Appl. Phys. Lett. 82, 1485 (2003).

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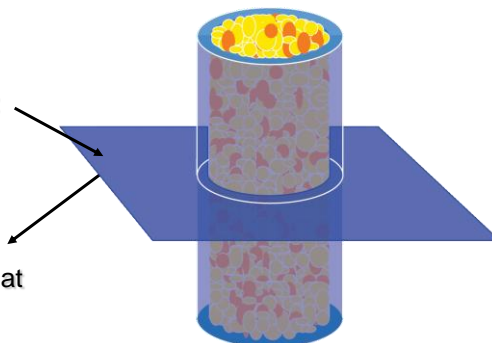
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## Scanning X-ray absorption tomography

**Sample:**  
**CuO/ZnO catalyst + BN powder**  
**in glass capillary**

virtual slice through sample:

record absorption spectrum at  
each point



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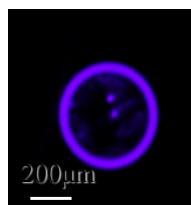
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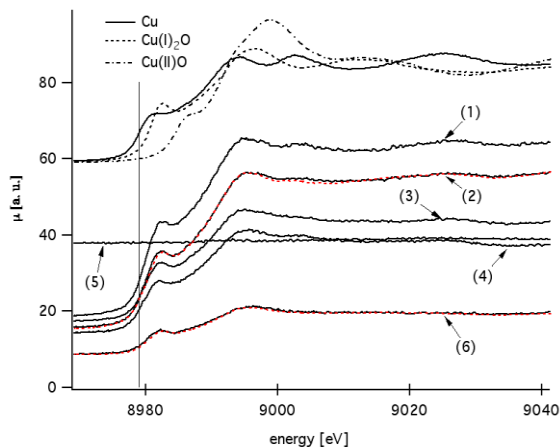
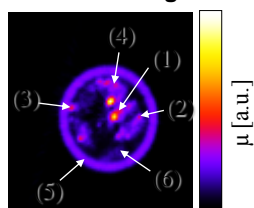
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## Scanning X-ray absorption tomography



Above Cu K-edge



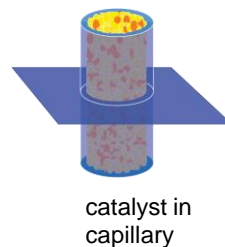
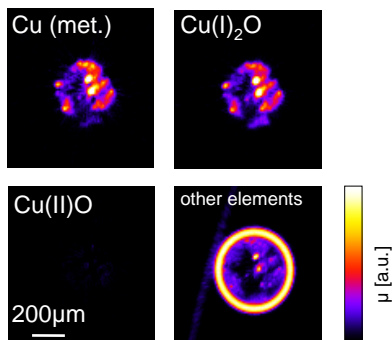
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## Scanning X-ray absorption tomography

XANES tomography:  
Distribution of Chemical State

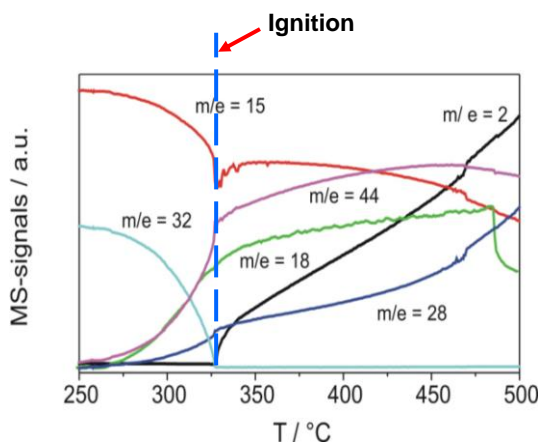


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## Catalytic partial oxidation of methane: Ignition of the reaction



2.5%Rh-2.5%Pt/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, prepared by flame synthesis  
6% CH<sub>4</sub>, 3% O<sub>2</sub> in He, ramp rate: 5 K/min

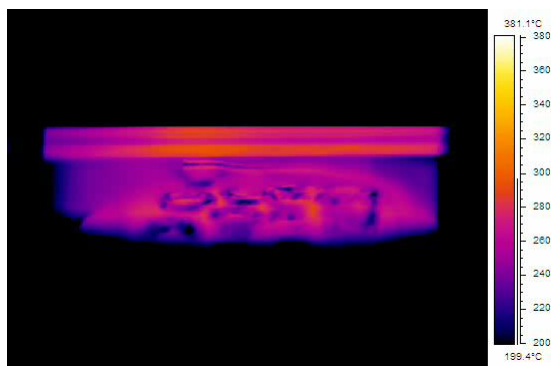
Grunwaldt and Baiker, Catal. Lett. 99, 5 (2005).

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## Temperature profile



2.5%Rh-2.5%Pt/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in  
6%CH<sub>4</sub>/3%O<sub>2</sub>/He at 313 °C

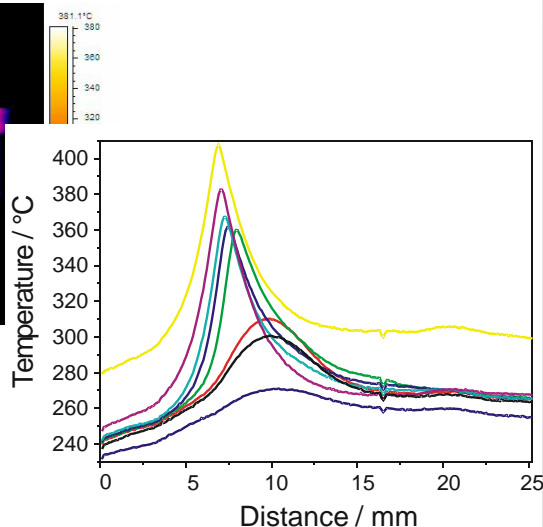
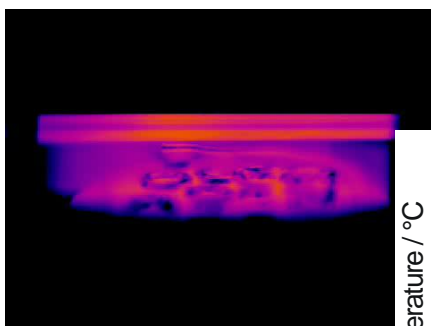
J.-D. Grunwaldt, et al., Catal. Today 145, 267 (2009).

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## Temperature profile



2.5%Rh-2.5%Pt/ $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  in  
6% $\text{CH}_4$ /3% $\text{O}_2$ /He at 313 °C

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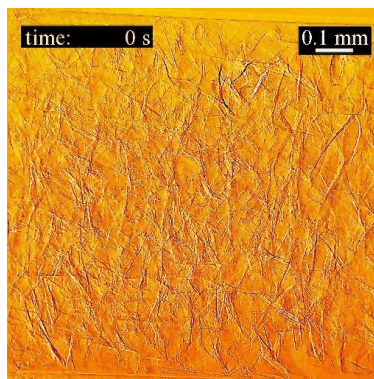
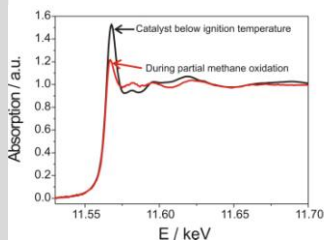
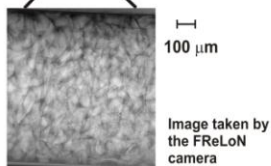
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## Change of structure in a spatiotemporal manner



Sample:  
2.5%Pt-2.5%Rh/ $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  in  
6% $\text{CH}_4$ /3% $\text{O}_2$ /He



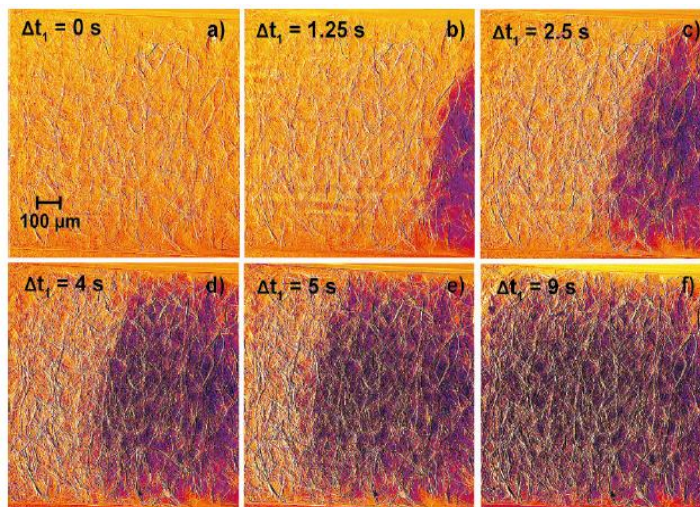
B. Kimmeler, J.-D. Grunwaldt, J. Phys. Chem. C (2009) Highlight at ESRF, 2009.

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## Change in structure during ignition

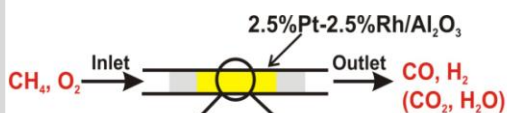


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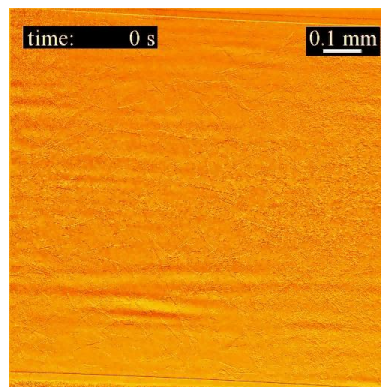
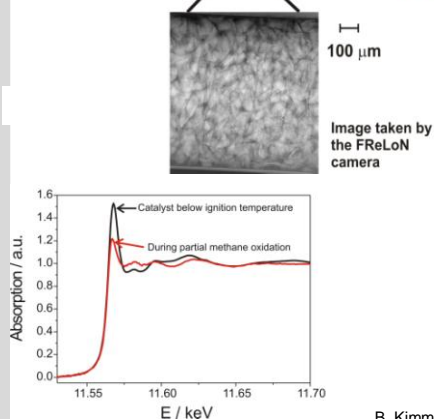
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## Change of structure in a spatiotemporal manner



Sample:  
2.5%Pt-2.5%Rh/ $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  in  
6% $\text{CH}_4$ /3% $\text{O}_2$ /He



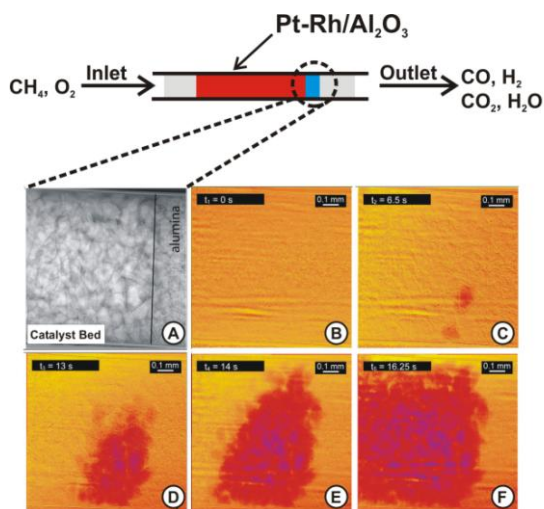
B. Kimmeler, J.-D. Grunwaldt, J. Phys. Chem. C (2009), Highlight at ESRF, 2009.

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## Processes occurring during the ignition

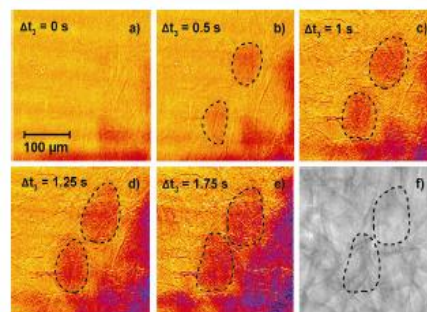
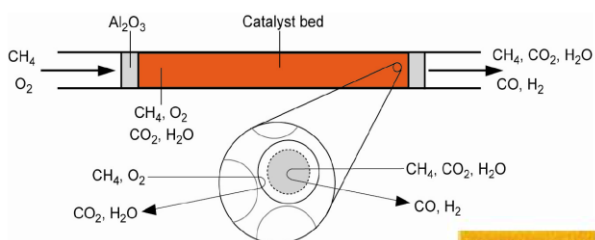


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## Processes occurring during the ignition of CPO



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## Summary and conclusions

- Dynamic & in situ studies are important for structural studies both on a micro- and nanoscale
- Hard X-ray based techniques advantageous for gas phase, high temperature, liquid phase and elevated pressure
- We need in future
  - Full EXAFS spectra
  - X-ray absorption tomography under in situ conditions
  - Better spatial resolution
  - Combination of full-field and scanning X-ray microscopy
  - Combination of electron and X-ray microscopy
  - Time-resolution with spatial resolution

## Acknowledgements



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

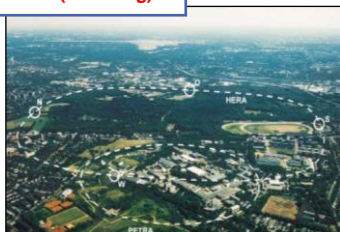


- **KIT:** The new group - especially Matthias Bauer and Alexey Boubnov
- **DTU-KIT:** Matthias Beier, Martin Høj, David Mogensen, Anna Filipu, Bjørn Maribo, Jon Christensen
- **CEN:** Rafal Dunin-Borkowski, Thomas Hansen, Jacob Wagner
- **Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences:** Alfons Baiker, Matteo Caravati, Bertram Kimmmerle, Stefan Hannemann, and many more
- Mechanical and electronic workshop
- **Universität Wuppertal:** Prof. R. Frahm, Jan Stötzel, Dirk Lützenkirchen-Hecht
- **RWTH Aachen/TU Dresden:** Prof. Dr. C.G. Schroer, Prof. B. Lengeler
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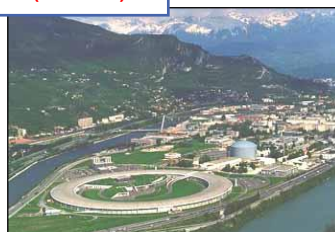


## ... and the support at the beamlines

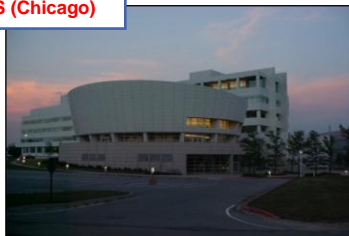
**HASYLAB (Hamburg)**



**ESRF (Grenoble)**



**APS (Chicago)**



**SLS (Villigen)**



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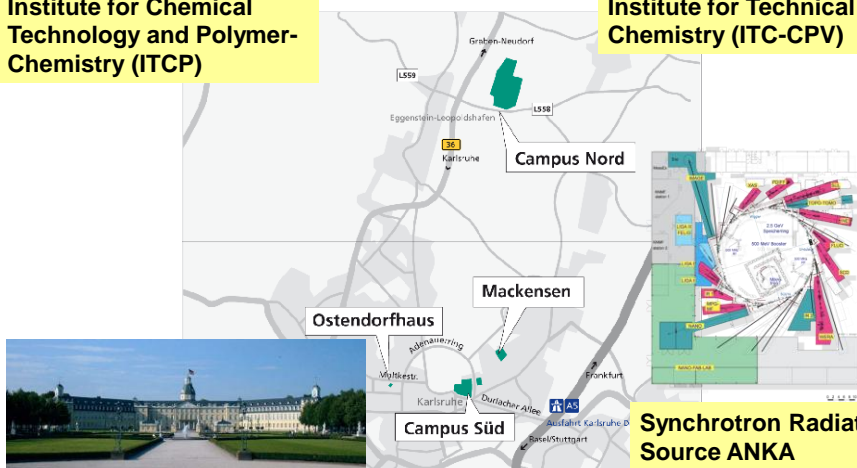
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## View on KIT

**Institute for Chemical  
Technology and Polymer-  
Chemistry (ITCP)**

**Institute for Technical  
Chemistry (ITC-CPV)**



**Synchrotron Radiation  
Source ANKA**

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## Final Remarks

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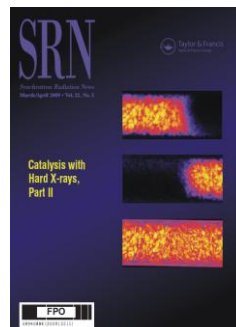
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Valeri Pavlov	



Two special issues edited by J.-D. Grunwaldt (DTU) and A.I. Frenkel (Catalysis Consortium, USA)

And: we are looking for **PhD and postdocs** at the interface of catalysis and in situ EXAFS and related synchrotron techniques!

[grunwaldt@kit.edu](mailto:grunwaldt@kit.edu)